



## GOVERNOR'S COORDINATING OFFICES

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### **JRA Restitution Workgroup**

**Date/Time:** Friday, November 13, 2020 - 1p.m.

### **Minutes**

- Introductions - Judge Kathleen Cox (Chair)
- Central Collections Unit Overview
  - See attached copy of CCU presentation.

Anthony Fugett, Director of the CCU described the role and function of his agency. The CCU collects debts for a number of state agencies, all of which have different rules and requirements. The CCU has a fairly robust IT system which enables them to effectively manage the collection of many different types of debt for a range of client agencies.

Juvenile restitution is more current with better outcomes as DJS checks in more regularly and quick forwards delinquent obligations. Restitution forwarded from DPP is usually aged/cold by the time it is received by CCU and collection rates are very low, most is involuntary. Finding individuals is very difficult, sometimes the information is limited, inhibiting collections. This is the most difficult debt for CCU to collect.

How can this be improved? Earlier referral to CCU and collaboration with P&P officers would help. CCU would also need information on the victim to make the payments of restitution collected.

CCU could collect restitution using their existing system at no cost to the general fund. They can put in place the necessary rules to ensure compliance with relevant law. The system also has the ability for online and several other payments options.

A bill was proposed a few years ago that would have had CCU assume restitution collection but it died in the house over concerns that CCU would be too effective at collection. DJS and DPP were ready for this change and also wanted CCU to assume collection of court costs, fees, and related payments.



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Jessica will follow up with some information on current and planned DJS systems. DPP is currently using a mainframe system to manage restitution and has been working on an RFP to modernize the system for several years but it is not yet on the street.

- Restitution Report

Heather Amador from the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth and Victims Services briefly reviewed the Restitution Report that was approved by the Oversight Board in January of 2020.

Heather shared her personal background in victim services and then discussed the development of the report which included surveys of practitioners around the state and research of practices around the county. We reviewed key recommendations from the report which included additional social service support to assist those with obligations, IT system improvements, improved reporting and data sharing, and the hiring of additional staff. Heather also noted successful practices within DJS that may be instructive for the group and a helpful future presentation.

- Child Support Administration Overview
  - See attached presentation

Kevin Guistwhite, the Director of the Child Support Administration joined the workgroup to share an overview of how child support collection works due to similarities to restitution collection.

Of particular interest were the legal remedies available to aid in collection as well as the 'whole family' approach which delivers appropriate support services to aid in the payment of support without punitive measures.

- Restitution Resource Center, Council of State Governments Justice Center
  - See attached presentation

Olivia Koukoui and Shundrea Trotty from the Restitution Resource Center (RCC) introduced the RCC to the workgroup, described their past engagements supporting states across the county, and discussed the range of technical assistance available to the workgroup. They advised that applications will open soon for an intensive technical assistance program.